

## **CLAYTON PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING**

**Monday, March 7**

**The Center of Clayton – Multipurpose Room C**

**Members present:** Jenaro Centeno, Maripat Gatter, David LaGesse, Missy McCormick, Becky Patel and Eric Schneider.

**Absent:** Joanne Boulton, Cynthia Garnholz, Jeanne Most, Mark Stapleton and Melanie Tamsky

*Also Present:* Patty DeForrest, Wayne Dunker and Karen Otto

### **Approval of Minutes:**

Minutes from the February meeting were approved as written.

### **Addresses from the Audience:**

Boy Scout Troop 21 was in attendance. Joshua from the boy scouts stated that he noticed the lack of care the trash haulers have when emptying the dumpsters in Shaw Park. He has also seen trash receptacles that need to be emptied in the park. Ms. DeForrest reported that our parks staff picks up trash throughout the parks every day in spring and summer, and two times a week in the winter. She also noted that if patrons find problems in the park they should report them by emailing her or submitting the information in the ACR system. Signs with contact information are posted throughout the park. Ms. DeForrest reported that thirty new recycle containers will be installed in the parks, which should help with trash issues. Miles from the boy scouts stated that he has difficulty, primarily in the morning, when riding his bike to Wydown Middle School. The pedestrian problems are near Edgewood and Wydown and at Wydown and Big Bend. There is a need for a crossing guard at those intersections. Ms. DeForrest informed Miles that this issue needs to be addressed by the Clayton School District and the City's Public Works Department because they handle street concerns.

Ms. DeForrest introduced Ms. Karen Otto, the new Aquatics Supervisor, to the Commission. Ms. Otto previously worked for the City of Richmond Heights in a similar position. Ms. Otto is handling the new management of the aquatic department and overseeing the aquatic programs offered by the department.

### **Chapman Plaza Update:** (See attached presentation for additional details)

Mr. Ted Spaid, with SWT, presented the updated Chapman Plaza plan to the Commission. He said the project is nearing the end of the design phase. Ms. DeForrest said the plan is getting ready to go to the BOA. The project has three defined spaces: the Plaza, Cascades and the Reflecting Pond. While managing the project, work is being completed to have a space designated for sledding. SWT continues to concentrate on ADA parking; two ADA spots will be located across from the new police building. The goal is to create a safe pedestrian experience so a number of refinements need to be made to the space. Further, work on safety zones and trucks turning by the plaza need to be discussed and finalized. SWT will be working with Public Works and the Traffic consultant to resolve this issue. Since the area is noisy during the day, fountains and waterfalls will help prevent patrons from hearing traffic. Black granite was used in the original drawings of the fountain; earth tone stones are depicted in the revised renderings.

The fountains will be thirty to thirty-six inches tall, injected with chlorine, use recirculated water, have their own pumping system and will have a number of lighting systems. There will also be uplighting on the pergola and under benches. New trees and many native plants will be added to encourage multi seasonality. The goal is to have four season landscape so the plaza and hillside look good all year. The cascade component of the plan will be designed to create a series of experiences for families and children. Headwaters at the cascade will come out of the pergola and be pulled further into the park. A seating grotto will be located in the loop trail as a place to watch the waterfall. The stepping garden in the cascades will have a lot of touch points.

The third component of the project is the reflecting pond. Reasons for a pavilion at this location are: small bands could perform, would encourage patrons to go into Shaw Park and serve as a place to sit without being in the sun. The pavilion will have an uplighting tongue and groove roof. Geese will not like the plaza, but since this cannot be guaranteed, fishing line will be in the pond to prevent geese from destroying the aquatic plants.

Ms. DeForrest noted the plan is more refined each time we meet. There are a few more things to work on before the plan is finalized. The goal is to begin construction in September and have the project completed in approximately seven to eight months, sometime late spring/early summer of 2017.

### **Director's Report**

Ms. DeForrest announced to the Commission that Mr. Dunker received the Missouri Parks and Recreation Association (MPRA) Associate Fellow Award. The award is the second highest award a person can receive from MPRA. Mr. Dunker gives of his time in many ways and is well deserving of the prestigious award. Also, Mr. Dunker was recently elected to the MPRA Board of Directors as a Director-At-Large.

The Parks Department is getting ready to open parks for the 2016 season; staff are cleaning beds, restrooms facilities and trimming trees. Currently the park season begins on April 1 and ends on October 31. Ms. DeForrest and Mr. Whipple recently discussed the possibility of opening restrooms in March next year.

The contract for the Taylor Park project is going to the BOA in March. Lighting has been selected and the new path location has been determined. Benches will be ordered soon. The goal is to have the project completed this summer. Projects at Oak Knoll are moving forward. The parking lot project may be delayed until next year as it is not ready to put out to bid and summer is not a good time to bid this type of work. The St. Louis Community Foundation has completed a lot of work to at #2 Oak Knoll, including roof repairs, tuck pointing, new windows and a great deal of work to the interior of the building. There are other small projects being completed but the focus right now is mainly on Chapman Plaza and Taylor Park.

Current enrollment for the Bunny Hop is low which may be because it will be held during Spring Break. There were over 400 attendees at Cupid's Ball. Picnic in the Park is Sunday, June 5 in Shaw Park.

Ms. DeForrest informed the Commission that a meeting was held with staff today to begin work on the capital plan for the City. Ballfields #5 and #6 need to be worked on again, so the fields are at the top of the park list. They need new lighting as well, because the current system is very old and not energy efficient, plus someone has to be brought in to change the bulbs. DeMun Playground is also a priority.

Ms. DeForrest stated that the mulch pile will be going away soon. Discussion has centered on the need for expanded parking that would serve the Center, the High School and the park. The idea of turning the mulch pile into a field was recently suggested. Up until last week, the only discussion there was, had been about turning the site into a parking lot. Currently there is no funding for this project and it is not an immediate concern. However, we can look into cost of turning the site into a field. It is important to note, a new venue that would require parking is not feasible because we already have parking issues. The cost to build a parking lot with one hundred fifty spots is estimated to be approximately \$500,000. The new ice rink would also serve as a turf field in the future which would help with the need for field space. Further discussion of this project will take place over the coming year.

Ms. McCormick asked if the Dolphin Slide at the Shaw Park Aquatic Center would be replaced in the near future. Ms. DeForrest notified the Commission that the dolphin slide is not set to be replaced this season. If a major change is made to the slide the entire baby pool has to be reconstructed. Replacement of the slide is in next year's budget.

Ms. McCormick asked if there was any further discussion about the property on Westmoreland. Ms. DeForrest told the Commission that the Clayton Century Foundation (CCF) decided not to have a fundraiser at the property. There is a company called Refab that recycles eighty percent of the materials from a complete tear down, and provides work for veterans. Potentially hiring this company is in line with our sustainability goals. We are waiting for a bid from them, but may need to go out to bid for the project which will delay things for a while.

### **Old Business / New Business:**

The Ice Rink and Capital projects will be discussed at the April Parks and Recreation Commission meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm

Respectfully Submitted By: Denise Ucinski